

DK-US030830

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Gen KUMAMOTO :  
Serial No New-Nat'l phase of :  
PCT/JP2004/015793 :  
International filing date: October 25, 2004 :  
For: EQUIPMENT COST ESTIMATE :  
CALCULATION PROGRAM AND :  
EQUIPMENT COST ESTIMATE :  
CALCULATION SYSTEM :  
(As Amended) :

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

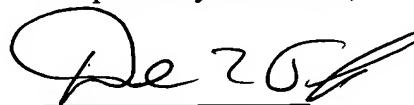
In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Copies of the non-U.S. patents are attached.

Japanese Patent Publication No 02-270062 appears to disclose an evaluation device giving an advice for renewal time of equipments with high accuracy. An English abstract is attached to better understand this publication.

\* \* \*

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Tarnoff  
Reg. No. 32,383

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Dated: 4-6-06

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

# INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number

PCT/JP2004/015793

Filing Date

International Date of October 25, 2004

First Named Inventor

**Gen KUMAMOTO**

### Group Art Unit

**Examiner Name**

Attorney Docket Number

DK-US030830

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited<br>Document | Pages, Columns,<br>Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures<br>Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------|
|                    |                       | Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known) |                                |   |   |                |
|                    |                       | JP-02-270062-A  | 11-05-1990                     | Goto et al.   |   | No             |
|                    |                       | JP-11-142298-A  | 05-28-1999                     | Koyama et al.   |   | Yes            |
|                    |                       | JP-2001-306134-A  | 11-02-2001                     | Inoue et al.  |   | Yes            |
|                    |                       | JP-2002-251416-A  | 09-06-2002                     | Maizawa et al.  |   | Yes            |
|                    |                       |   |                                |   |   |                |
|                    |                       |   |                                |   |   |                |
|                    |                       |   |                                |   |   |                |
|                    |                       |   |                                |   |   |                |
|                    |                       |   |                                |   |   |                |

**Examiner  
Signature**

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**